

# annual report 2009



**wandsworth voluntary sector development agency**  
enabling voluntary action



supporting volunteer programmes



Voluntary Sector Development

providing advice, support and training



Putney  
Creche

grant funding for projects and individuals

[www.wvsda.org.uk](http://www.wvsda.org.uk)

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wandsworth voluntary sector  
development agency

enabling voluntary action

Our vision is for a vibrant, inclusive, independent and strong voluntary and community sector in Wandsworth, in order to help improve the quality of life of the community. We work towards this by providing effective and accessible infrastructure support services and volunteering tailored to meet the needs of voluntary and community groups and local people.

## Why does Wandsworth need a Council of Voluntary Service?

### What is a Council of Voluntary Service?

Wandsworth Voluntary Sector Development Agency is able to call itself a Council of Voluntary Service, as it delivers all five services deemed vital to local voluntary and community organizations by the National Association of Councils and Voluntary Action:

**Services and support;** we aim to increase the effectiveness of local voluntary and community groups by offering a range of services - including meeting rooms, newsletters, training and funding advice, in addition to specialist services such as community accountancy and employment advice.

**Liaison;** we provide a focal point for the local voluntary and community sector; developing relationships between individuals, groups, and the public and private sector - helping them establish contacts and work together more effectively.

**Representation;** we represent local voluntary and community organizations' views to local, regional and national government through our Consultation Panel.

**Development work;** we identify gaps in service provision and work with voluntary groups to develop innovative services to meet needs such as ICT and child protection.

**Strategic partnerships;** we work in partnership with local government, health commissioners and other statutory agencies to help shape the delivery of local services as part of the Local Strategic Partnership.

Significant progress has been made towards our vision for the Borough during the year. By working in partnership with local communities and stakeholders, including Wandsworth Council and Wandsworth Primary Care Trust, we aim to develop a vibrant, independent, diverse and sustainable voluntary and community sector, delivering much-needed services.

**Stefan Kuchar**  
**WVSDA Chief Executive**

## What are the challenges facing a Council of Voluntary Service?

There are always many challenges facing the trustees of a Council of Voluntary Service (CVS). At the moment we are preoccupied with the challenges facing the charitable sector as a result of the credit crunch. Potential repercussions could include reduction in the investment income generated by grant-giving trusts, with a consequent reduction in the funds available to give to organizations such as ours. There may also be more pressure on local and central government funds and Lottery funding, so we will have to become increasingly competitive and imaginative when seeking new funds. We also need to ensure that if we have reserves available for investment, we invest funds with an appropriate spread of risk.

I am very pleased that we have developed a close and constructive relationship with Wandsworth Council, which is our largest single funder. We have links both at staff and trustee level with the Council and I see this as an important relationship which builds on the strengths of both our CVS and the Council. Recently we have been working closely with the Council to monitor volunteering activity in Wandsworth under the Local Area Agreement. We have also worked with the Council to organize two volunteer fairs and the 2008 Volunteer Awards ceremony.

Although there are always short-term issues to consider, trustees need to look beyond WVSDA's immediate concerns to see the strategic opportunities and risks that are important to the organization. We recently met to review the strategic objectives of the CVS. Trustees focused on a number of issues including the need for the CVS to maintain its independence by seeking funding from a broad range of funders.

Following a consultation period, we made a number of changes to the way the trustees work. We changed the time of meetings to accommodate people's other commitments. We continue to make time for at least one meeting a year, away from the CVS office, where we work without a regular agenda on strategic issues. We have also built into our meeting schedule time for staff members to brief trustees on interesting projects, so that trustees have the chance to hear more about the day to day work from staff directly involved.

We aim to have a group of trustees who are willing to give the benefit of their time, knowledge and experience, to build an effective partnership with the Chief Executive and other staff.

**David Mears**  
WVSDA Chair

## 2008-2009 Finances

Although WVSDA's financial operations often occur quietly behind the scenes, they are actually an integral part of the Agency's success. Cash is the lifeblood of the Agency, and allows it to occupy its premises, pay its bills, and most importantly employ the team of professional staff who co-ordinate and carry out the projects the Agency is involved in.

WVSDA's core volunteering activities are currently funded by the London Borough of Wandsworth through a contract which runs until March 2010. The Agency then fundraises on a case by case basis for the projects it has identified as priorities for Wandsworth. The Agency works with a wide range of funders, listed on page 27.

These two types of funding are both time-limited, with contracts usually lasting between one and three years. This makes it difficult for WVSDA to guarantee its long-term survival, and in order to try and address this, the Agency aims to maintain a reserve of unspent funds approximately equivalent to six month's expenditure on priority projects. Over the past decade this reserve has grown slowly from a virtually nil base to the target level.

While this provides the Agency with some comfort about its ability to survive into the future, the staff team and trustees will continue to avoid complacency and are committed to continuing to fundraise. We are constantly looking for new sources of finance to allow the Agency to continue developing its activities. We need to ensure that WVSDA secures renewed funding from the London Borough of Wandsworth, wins longer-term support from other funders, and finds funding for some key projects the Agency is currently funding from its own reserves.

WVSDA works to a March financial year, and the figures for the year ended 31 March 2008 are summarised in the last two pages of this report, in the form required by charity law. It includes a 'statement of financial activities' showing the Agency's income and expenditure for that year and a balance sheet showing the financial position at the end of the year. 'Unrestricted funds' show money that the Agency is able to use for any of its activities. 'Restricted funds' are usually tied to a specific project. 'Endowment funds' represent the investments of Putney Crèche. The income from these investments is used to carry out Putney Crèche grant-making and other activities. The £97,000 surplus for this year is healthy, though a great deal of this has already been spent on projects taking place over the remainder of 2008.

The Agency remains in a reasonably sound financial position, and is committed to working hard to ensure that this continues to be the case.

**Chris Turner**  
**WVSDA Treasurer**

## Central London CVS Network

Camden, Islington, Kensington & Chelsea, Lambeth, Southwark, Wandsworth, Westminster



### Cross-Borough Partnerships

Wandsworth Voluntary Sector Development Agency is an active member of a network of seven Central London Councils of Voluntary Service. This central London network consists of the chief executives from the seven members, which consists of Voluntary Action Camden, Voluntary Action Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea Social Council, Lambeth Voluntary Action Council, Community Action Southwark and Wandsworth Voluntary Sector Development Agency.

The aim of the network is to share good practice, skills and experience; enable the involvement of the voluntary and community sector in sub-regional work; identify opportunities to maximise resources for the sector; raise awareness of the value, profile and contribution which the voluntary and community sector makes; and ensure the sector has effective representation on any planning groups which operate across the sub-region.

Over the past year the partnership has drawn up a sub-regional workforce development plan and strategy. As part of this plan a governance conference was held in March 2009 to promote good practice for charity boards. Another aspect of the plan is that the partners have been able to promote the government's "Train 2 Gain" initiative to the voluntary sector.

### Wandsworth Children's Department

This year Wandsworth Children's services department revised the criteria for grant applications. All applicants for this grant were asked to demonstrate how they would meet the objectives from the Wandsworth Children and Young People's Plan.

WVSDA met with officers from the Council to offer advice on how best to progress and market the scheme. They put on an event in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall to engage and inform organizations and host presentations from the Council as well as other funders. WVSDA continued to offer support to organizations in filling application forms and answering questions they had about the grant and the application process.

*"Wandsworth Children's Services Department were very pleased with the outcome and grateful for WVSDA support."*

**Stefanie Dawson**  
Early Years Provision Manager  
Wandsworth Children's Department



## Thames Community Foundation

Thames Community Foundation is our community foundation in Wandsworth. They work in 7 boroughs and expect to make grants worth £1.25 million this year - all of which will go to local community and voluntary groups. Their work falls into 3 main areas:

- Making grants to local community voluntary and charitable organizations.
- Working to encourage donors - of all kinds - to make a connection with their locality through locally focussed giving.
- Help to provide local leadership and work to strengthen the local community and voluntary sector.

*“Since July 2008, we have been working in partnership with Wandsworth Voluntary Sector Development Agency to try and identify what development/capacity building issues local groups in Wandsworth may have.*

*Once identified we know that our skilled partners in WVSDA will be able to provide the necessary training and support to equip local groups to deal with governance, development, funding, accounting, and all the other issues that voluntary groups need to deal with if they are to be successful and survive.*

*We do not have the staff or skills in-house to provide this valuable help and support and that is why we were so pleased to form a partnership with WVSDA and to help them to help the voluntary sector in Wandsworth.”*



**Nigel Hay**  
**Director**  
**Thames Community Foundation**

*making a difference*



## Battersea Dog's Home

Battersea Dogs and Cats Home (BDCH) is probably the most well known Animal Rescue Centre in the UK, and currently has around 160 volunteers in a variety of roles.

Natalie Kew, the volunteer co-ordinator at BDCH, contacted the Volunteer Centre for support as she wanted to improve the recruitment process.

Providing BDCH with practical advice and being part of the interview and selection process was just one way in which the Volunteer Centre worked in partnership with BDCH during the year.

*“The Volunteer Centre has helped me immensely, I would highly recommend others to work with the Volunteer Centre staff. The support from the Volunteer Centre meant that I could manage more volunteer enquiries and make sure that the best people were selected for each role. The new recruitment procedure means that I can provide active volunteers with more support and ensure that the number of vacant volunteer roles is kept to a minimum.”*

**Natalie Kew**  
**Volunteer Coordinator**  
**Battersea Dogs and Cats Home**



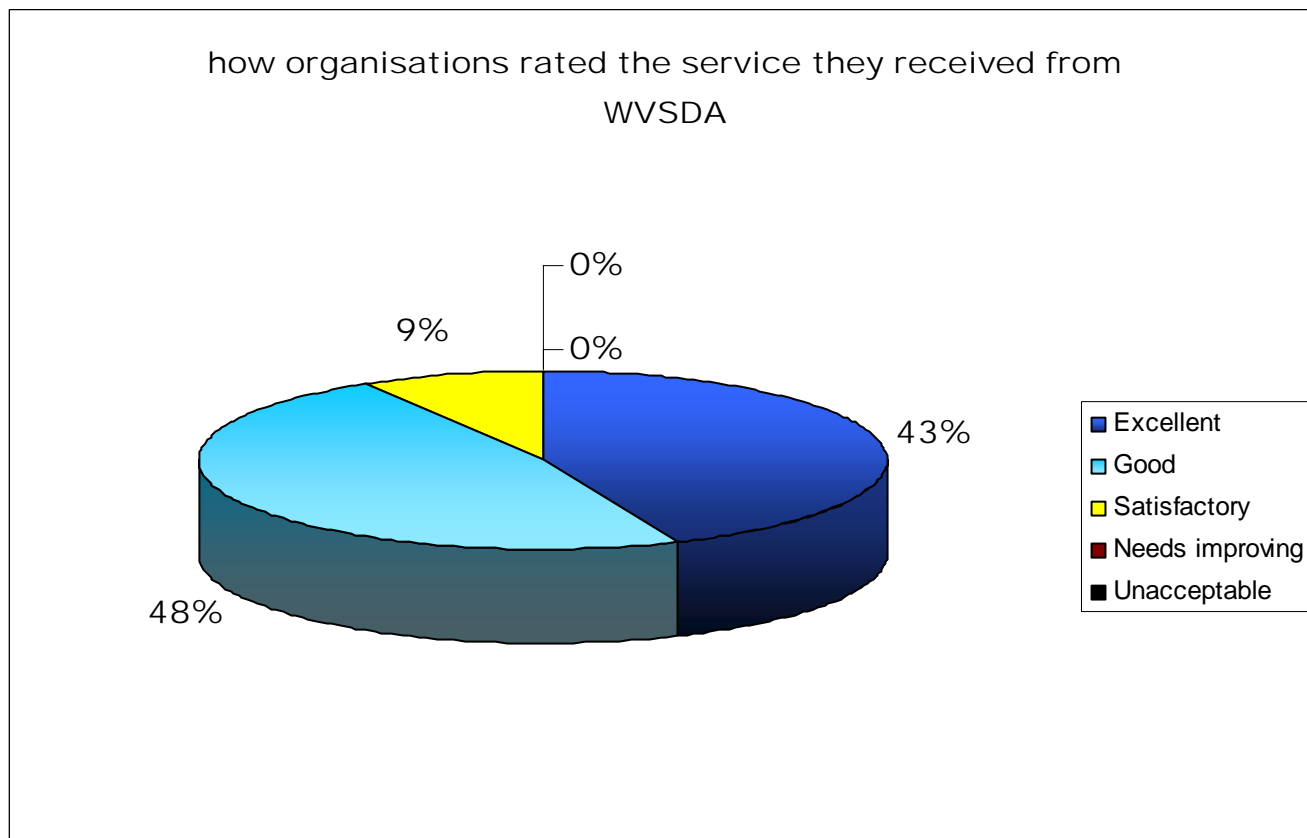
## enabling voluntary action by providing advice, support and training

The Voluntary Sector Development team - VSD (formerly Voluntary Information Service) was established in April 2002 to provide an information, advice and training service to voluntary and community groups in Wandsworth.

The main aim of VSD is to assist voluntary and community groups working in the London Borough of Wandsworth to improve and sustain the operation of their organization. We work with voluntary and community groups of all sizes either on a one to one basis or in a group environment. As of 1st April 2009, we had 793 organizations, groups and individuals registered with us. In 2008-2009 we responded to **843** requests from organizations, groups and individuals with advice, support or training.

### What people think of Wandsworth Voluntary Sector Development

Every year we ask the organizations we work with to give us feedback on the services we provide. This is essential for us to assess and improve the level of service we offer. In 2008-2009 this is what our clients told us:



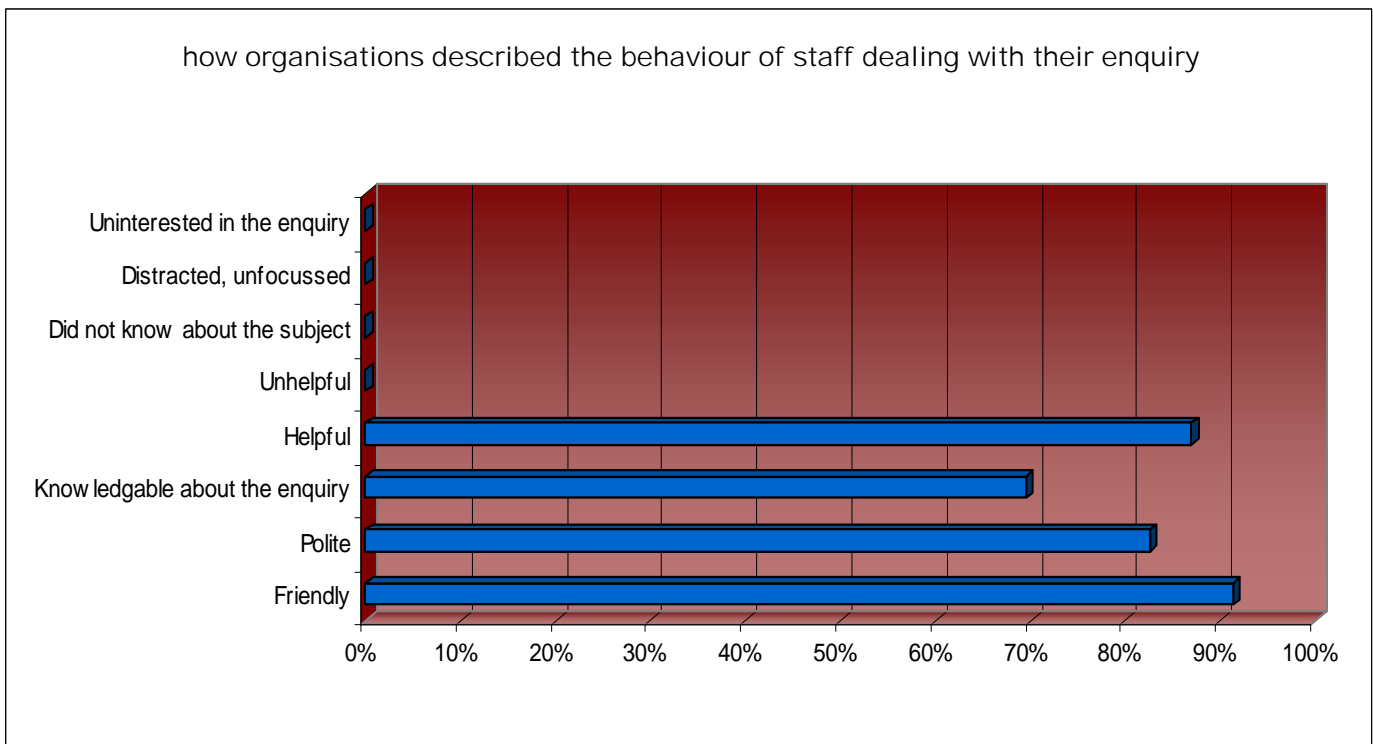
Data collected from Wandsworth Voluntary Sector Development Agency Customer Satisfaction Survey, February 2009.

**100%** of clients who took our survey said we responded to their enquiries with helpful information.

**91%** of clients who took our survey felt that WVSDA treats their organization fairly, with sensitivity, and with a good level of customer care.

**//** *WVSDA is always ready to help and inform us of any advantage our organization can get. //*

**//** *The excellent service that is provided by WVSDA - enabling people to assist others that are less fortunate to enjoy a better lifestyle - is greatly appreciated. I hope WVSDA continues the good work in finding various ways to invest in people. //*



Data collected from Wandsworth Voluntary Sector Development Agency Customer Satisfaction Survey, February 2009.

**//** *I found your staff and services very helpful to our organization. //*

## Linking local voluntary and community organizations in Wandsworth to funders

Recognising that the most important concern for all voluntary and community organizations is acquiring the funding to carry out their work, WVSDA has held 'Meet the Funders' workshops every year since 2002 to encourage voluntary and community organizations to apply for some of the grants open to them.

In recent years we have worked with the Local Network Fund, City Parochial Foundation, Wates Foundation, Thames Community Foundation, Putney Crèche, Wandsworth Borough Council's Early Years Department, Big Lottery, Capacity Builders, and Merton and Sutton PCT.

Our 'Meet the Funders' workshops enable funders to make presentations about their funding streams and give individuals the chance to ask questions on how to improve their chances of obtaining funding. It also allows the funders to hear about some of the problems voluntary organizations face when trying to secure funding, informing their decisions on future guidelines or funding priorities.

In addition to this, our monthly email newsletters include a section specifically highlighting the funding available to voluntary organizations, giving a brief outline of who can apply and closing dates for applications.

All this information is complemented by the staff working within Voluntary Sector Development, who are available to assist voluntary organizations of all sizes with their grant applications, budgetary and other financial information.

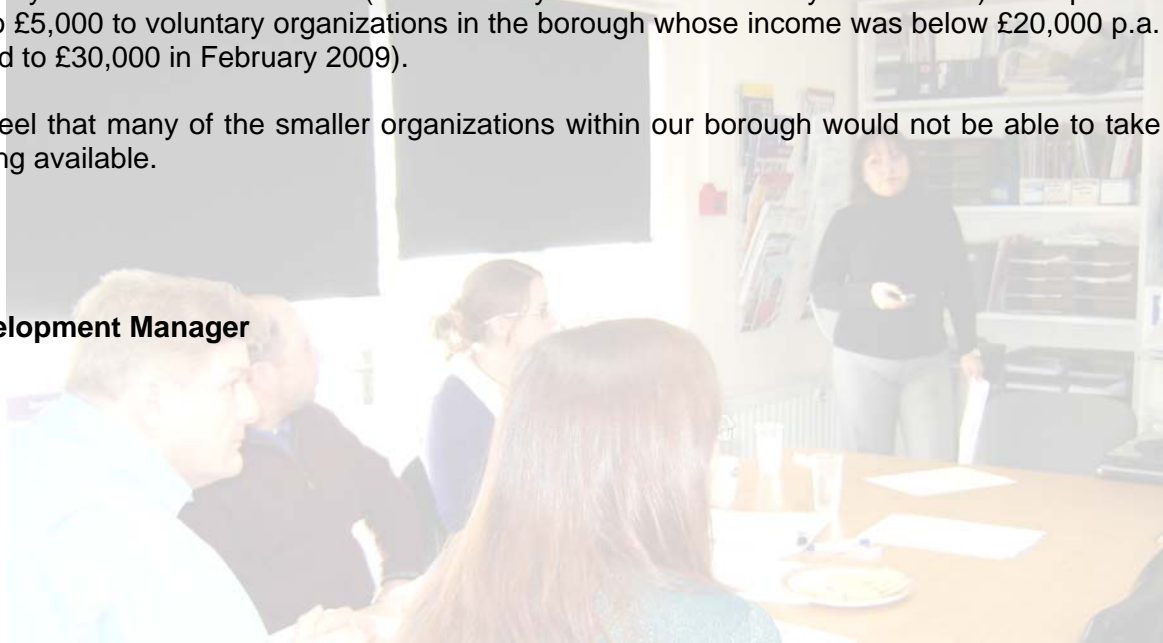
We also host the Funder Finder database in our offices. This can be accessed by any voluntary organization within the borough by making an appointment with the Voluntary Sector Development team at WVSDA.

In 2007 we became Trustees of an old local charity called Putney Crèche. We altered the remit of the Crèche to widen the area of grant funding to the whole borough of Wandsworth. Based on an assessment of the borough's requirements, we prioritized two groups; organizations working with parents with additional support requirements who have children under the age of 7, and a volunteer training program to assist these parents to gain skills and work experience to enable them to return to work .

In 2008 we worked closely with Grassroots Grants (distributed by Thames Community Foundation) to help them to award grants of up to £5,000 to voluntary organizations in the borough whose income was below £20,000 p.a. (this threshold increased to £30,000 in February 2009).

Without this work, we feel that many of the smaller organizations within our borough would not be able to take advantage of the funding available.

**Tina Champion**  
Voluntary Sector Development Manager



## Community accountancy project

*Enabling voluntary action by advising, supporting and training voluntary organizations on best financial practice; to develop their sustainability and Funding acquisition.*

The community accountancy project offered one to one appointments, email and telephone advice, alongside bespoke group training on a range of subjects including opening bank accounts and developing financial controls, reserves policies, bookkeeping systems and final audits.

The project was open for 3 days a week until the end of June 2008 and then reduced to 1 1/2 days per week owing to changes in funding of the project. New funding gained during the year enabled the project to carry out free independent examinations for two small charities who were already clients of the project and had demonstrated their commitment to good financial practices.

During the year a total of 107 enquiries were dealt with from 33 different voluntary organizations. There is no limit to the amount of support offered to individual organizations – the main aim of the project is to ensure voluntary organizations set up and maintain good financial records to support their work in the community.

6 training sessions were held during the year, the most popular being financial controls, which was attended by the trustees and management committees of three different organizations.

Monitoring and evaluation of the training sessions recorded that organizations felt that they would introduce new systems, policies or procedures as a direct result of the training. Feedback from the one to one appointments was excellent, with groups feeling confident in running their own financial systems and dealing with PAYE, reports to funders, and budgets.

*“The training was well planned, clear and easy to understand. Well structured, empowering and facilitative.”*



*Management committee members from the Balham MILAP group attend a bespoke financial controls training session at WVSDA, June 2008.*

*“Thank you for the excellent training and answering our questions. I would recommend it to anyone who is setting up a new voluntary organization or charity.”*



*Basic budgets and cash flow training at WVSDA, February 2008.*

*“A lot of ground covered and well presented.”*

## WVSDA Policy and Advocacy Project

The Policy and Advocacy project is a new addition to the portfolio of services and projects run by WVSDA for the benefit of the voluntary and community sector in Wandsworth. The primary purpose of the project is to provide accessible, up-to-date policy information, as well as opportunities for organizations to get more involved in local policy processes. Ultimately, our aim is to develop a more active and cohesive sector that is able to articulate its policy concerns, and is able to effect, influence, and respond to change. The project is entirely funded by the Big Lottery and runs from 2008 to 2012. The project works around the central idea that...

*...voluntary and community organizations that are informed and well connected to each other and to the local policy agenda will form a more cohesive sector that is better able to influence as well as respond to policy change.*

To enable the voluntary and community sector to get involved, the Policy and Advocacy Project undertakes the following:

1. Producing Policy Briefings
2. Organizing Policy Meetings and Talks
3. Participating in the Local Strategic Partnership
4. Providing a Current Policy Information Service

### Briefings

To enable voluntary and community organizations to access information about significant policy developments at local, regional or national levels, WVSDA produces briefings on current and emerging issues. The briefings summarise extensive policy discussions into straightforward language, and highlight the key implications for the voluntary and community sector.

We have issued four briefings on policy developments related to the government's funding agenda; community empowerment; the local policy framework in Wandsworth; and individual budgets (part of the Personalisation agenda). Briefings are available to download on the WVSDA website by selecting 'VSD' on the opening page and then following the links to the Policy Project.

We welcome feedback from all our members, as well as requests for briefings on particular topics that may be of interest to the wider voluntary and community sector in Wandsworth.

### Meetings, Consultations and Talks

The Policy and Advocacy Project is dedicated to giving WVSDA members input into policy development and an understanding of emerging issues locally and nationally. When policies are being formulated or reviewed at local or national level and the policy affects the local voluntary and community sector, WVSDA organizes meetings to make sure that voluntary and community organizations have a chance to make their voices heard before decisions are made.

Between April 2008 and April 2009, six Policy events were organized to consult, inform and communicate feedback and priorities from the sector to decision makers. The meeting topics were tailored to respond to demand and covered a number of current themes, including cultural policy, the Quality Mark for advice providers, the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Council's procurement of services from the voluntary sector. Two of these meetings are highlighted opposite.

The first major topic for discussion in 2008 was the creation of the Sustainable Community Strategy – Our Wandsworth 2018. The strategy sets out a vision for Wandsworth leading up to 2018 with seven priority areas identified: Making Wandsworth safer; Improving the local environment and transport; Building a prosperous community; Ensuring children and young people meet their full potential; Improving health and social care; Meeting housing needs and Supporting active citizens and good neighbours. Under each of these areas the strategy considers the following issues: promoting equality, promoting sustainability, involving local people, working with the voluntary and community sector, and taking into account the needs of older people.



*Participants at the Lunchtime Seminar on the Sustainable Community Strategy. From left: Carmen Ellington and Viveen Dyer, Imani Project. Betty Price, Wandsworth Access Association, and Tina Champion, WVSDA. Liz Rees, Wandsworth Council.*

WVSDA carried out a consultation meeting in the spring of 2008 that informed the voluntary sector provisions in the strategy and in connection with the launch of the strategy in early 2009, WVSDA arranged an open lunchtime seminar covering the main points in the strategy with participation by Wandsworth Borough Council.

Another key issue in 2008/2009 was the drafting of a Cultural Strategy for Wandsworth. The strategy aims to provide a broad framework for culture in Wandsworth leading up to 2018 (the same timeframe as the Sustainable Community Strategy) and in January 2009 the sector came together to respond to the draft document. The extensive response from the sector reflected the wealth of experience, creativity and knowledge among culture and arts organizations in the borough. Since these organizations run a large proportion of the cultural venues and activities in Wandsworth, their contributions to the realisation of the strategy's aims will be crucial.



*Participants at the WVSDA consultation on the Wandsworth Cultural Strategy. From left: Habib Latif and Shahina Siddique of the Urdu Women's Association. Rosie Hunter, Battersea Arts Centre and Su Elliott, Wandsworth Older People's Forum. Roger Lang, Oily Cart. Jo Lofgren, WVSDA (hidden). Habib Latif and Shahina Siddique, Urdu Women's Association. Rosie Hunter, Battersea Arts Centre, Su Elliott, Wandsworth Pensioners' Forum. Teus Young, Battersea Park School.*

For the year ahead, we are looking at themes like Commissioning and the impact of the economic downturn on the voluntary and community sector. All information and outcomes documents can be obtained via our website and from the Policy and Advocacy Officer at WVSDA.

## The Local Strategic Partnership

WVSDA has a seat on the Wandsworth Local Strategic Partnership (WLSP). The WLSP is a multi-sector partnership hosted by Wandsworth Council with participants from all major sectors in the Borough, including the voluntary sector, local government, health authorities and the business sector. Among other things, the partnership monitors progress toward achieving the goals set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy – Our Wandsworth 2018.

The voluntary sector is represented by several organizations on the partnership, including Wandsworth Care Alliance (also hosting Wandsworth Local Involvement Network - LINK), Wandsworth Children and Young People's Voluntary and Community Sector Network (CCVN), Wandsworth Environment Forum and Wandsworth Older People's Network.

By participating in the WLSP, we are able to stay abreast of the local policy agenda and ensure any issues that need to be communicated to the major players in Wandsworth get put on the table. WVSDA's presentation to the partnership this year focused on the impressive achievements of the Volunteer Centre in promoting and mapping volunteering in the Borough.

For the year ahead, we will be promoting stronger links between the voluntary organizations that are represented on the WLSP and we want to find ways of making the meetings more accessible to the voluntary and community sector as a whole by improving information sharing and communications within the sector between meetings.



Participants at a consultation meeting on the Council's Procurement Code. From left: Mike Brook, Wandsworth Council. Manuel Button, Wandsworth Community Transport. David Beadle, South West London Law Centres. Pamela Wright, Wandsworth CABx.



## Current Policy Information – Online

On WVSDA's new website ([www.wvsvda.org.uk](http://www.wvsvda.org.uk)) the Policy and Advocacy Project is housed within the Voluntary Sector Development (VSD) section.

The 'Current Policy Information' page outlines all meetings, talks, current issues, consultations and policy news and it can be accessed by selecting 'VSD' on the WVSDA home page and then following the links to the Policy Project. We also distribute Policy e-Updates during particularly busy periods.

For 2009, we are trying to make the website an even better and more useful tool for the sector and we would welcome feedback and suggestions for new features and information that organizations would like to have access to.

(Above right: The Policy and Advocacy Project is funded by the Big Lottery. Left: Snapshot of current Policy Information page, April 2009.)

## Small Groups Support / SOLVS project (renamed Voluntary Sector Development from December 2008)

SOLVS (Support and Outreach for the Local Voluntary Sector), was a project funded by the City Bridge Trust between July 2006 and November 2008. Since December 2008, alternative funding has been sought and this project is continuing to run 2.5 days per week under its new name of Voluntary Sector Development.

### Enabling voluntary action

Groups access one-to-one advice, on-going outreach support, tailor-made training, and a rolling training programme. This support covers a wide range of capacity building areas such as governance, business planning, fundraising, and employment. One highlight of the past year was the 'Meet the Funder' event in March 2008, which involved 5 different funders and attracted 37 organizations and 48 attendees. Another highlight was the introduction of a new training programme called 'Understanding and using an Outcomes Focus' which benefitted 11 organizations and 25 people.

### In 2008-2009 we:

- Provided support to 117 voluntary and community organizations (VCOs) through 331 interventions with organizations.
- Provided continuous support to 25 organizations as part of the outreach programme (56% of which were BMER groups).
- Provided training to 51 groups (95 individuals) on 8 subjects ranging from governance and fundraising to outcomes monitoring and employment.

As a result of the above, monitoring showed that groups benefitted in 3 main ways:

- Improved awareness and understanding of management committee roles and responsibilities
- Increased skills and confidence in project planning, developing policies and financial issues.
- Increased funding opportunities

Key finds from our outcomes monitoring were:

**9** New groups (5 of which were BMER) accessing the service received their first funding totalling £53,200, **75%** of outreach supported groups reported increased awareness of good governance, and **70%** of the groups monitored considered that the training received had a high impact on their organization. The most common area of change identified was building the confidence of the managers and making them feel more supported in their role. Groups receiving two or more support interventions reported a significant improvement in their ability to fundraise.

### The future

The results for this project show how relevant it is to promote a strong and vibrant voluntary and community sector in Wandsworth. We will continue to encourage groups to use our capacity building support on a regular basis and with a focus on the medium to long term development as this approach has proved to have more impact on the sustainability of groups.

*"I benefited on a personal level and the organization is now doing well because of your support. Thank you!"* (Elays Network)

*"Thank you again for the excellent training session. It hit just the right note, the right level and the right issues for the group."* (Jenny Weinstein, Furzedown Project)



**Tina Champion - Voluntary Sector Development Manager**

**How do you enable voluntary action?**

By promoting good practice in operation, management and governance, together with developing the capacity of voluntary organizations in the Borough of Wandsworth. By keeping an up to date database of voluntary sector organizations who deliver services within the Borough of Wandsworth. By distributing information through our e-bulletin newsletters and holding networking sessions for the voluntary sector.

**What did you do this year to fulfil this?**

Our three main projects in capacity building (SOLVS, Community Accountancy and the Information Service) delivered support and training to organizations via one to one appointments, telephone and email support, and bespoke training. Areas covered included governance, registration as a charity or limited company, fundraising, understanding outcomes, recruitment, and support and supervision advice. We also provided financial training on banking, book-keeping, insurance, PAYE, final accounts, management accounts, and carrying out independent examinations. The Information Service maintains our searchable database, deals with telephone enquiries and sends e-bulletin newsletters to organizations or individuals registered with us, informing them of available funding, legislation, current news, WVSDA training and networking events.

**What happened as a result of your outputs?**

VSD projects handled a total of 843 interactions with groups; dealt with via appointments, emails, or telephone. Feedback from recipients of our newsletters was positive with comments such as: "We have just managed to get grants from 2 funders (thanks to the WVSDA newsletter with funding contacts etc.) so brilliant, keep those coming" And: "Thanks for a brilliant bulletin - it really is the most useful newsletter that enters my inbox or postbag". Groups attending our training said it had improved their knowledge significantly. They further reported that they would share this knowledge with other members, staff or trustees in their organization.

**What are the main challenges to your service?**

Gaining funding to employ staff. Funding criteria and priorities have changed in the past two years, although the demand from groups seeking assistance with fundraising and finance is likely to increase. We need to increase the range of services available to groups to include topics such as help with CRB checks, help during the recession, greater networking facilities for organizations to share views and work in partnership, and guiding organizations through the new procurement procedures being introduced by the local authority.

**How will you try to address these challenges?**

We are committed to providing these capacity building services in the Borough of Wandsworth and are currently funding some of from our reserves, while seeking new project funding to ensure long term sustainability.

**Were there any new developments in the service your departments offered this year?**

We introduced a Policy project which enables the community to coordinate and represent their views on new local and national government policy. We rebranded the organization emphasizing our three main areas of work. We launched our new website in February 2009. We developed partnership working with the NHS PCT to give voluntary organizations and the public a greater say in the services being delivered. We formed a new partnership with Thames Community Fund to promote and support their valuable work funding Wandsworth groups.

**What happens next?**

We will be looking at a new database during 2009 to increase the amount of information we hold and speed up the process of communicating with organizations. Seeking suitable funding to enhance the services of the Voluntary Sector Development department will become a priority. We will be working with other partners who we can assist to deliver services to Wandsworth organizations. We will also be looking at the many ways that VSD can work with the local authority to support the voluntary sector in Wandsworth both in the short and the long term.





**Nicholas Godden**  
Volunteer Development Manager



**Tina Champion**  
Putney Crèche  
Grants Manager

Primarily, by offering a brokerage service for people looking for a volunteer role that meets their needs, and by promoting volunteer roles for organizations that require volunteers to support their activities and operations. We also support organizations and volunteers by providing training, advice, networks and forums that enable organizations to operate a volunteer programme that meets best working practices.

We provided a combination of services including Volunteer Fairs, Volunteer Awards, Open Days and a remote brokerage service for people looking for volunteer opportunities. The Volunteer Centre has 2 projects which enable people to volunteer; the Volunteer Support Project (which provides advice and guidance for people who have any additional supports needs), and the ACTIVATE Project (which provides advice and guidance for ex-offenders who wish to volunteer). The Volunteer Centre also hosts a worker from the Vinolved project. Vinolved is a national initiative that provides guidance and support to young people aged 16-25 who want to volunteer.

We achieved the following outputs - we helped over 2300 people into volunteer roles. Over 250 individuals with additional support needs or people who face barriers to volunteering have received advice, guidance and support to enable them to find a volunteer role. Over 175 organizations have accessed one or more of our services and more than 250 volunteer roles have been hosted on our database. The number of people volunteering in Wandsworth has increased, benefitting volunteer involving organizations and the community as a whole.

The main focus is sustaining current services and increasing the number of staff that deliver these projects to meet community demand. In the future we will be working on supporting under-represented groups to become more established and undertaking the direct delivery of community projects, such as the regeneration of community spaces. We will also seek to take the lead on advocacy work that will improve the quality of volunteering in Wandsworth.

We will meet these challenges by supporting current staff in their roles. The other identified needs can be addressed by attracting new funding and working in partnership with other statutory and voluntary sector organizations. We will ensure that all funders are aware of the Volunteer Centre's achievements and the need for their continued project funding.

An increase in funding by Wandsworth Council enabled the Volunteer Centre to employ a Volunteer Involving Organization project worker. The project provides support to organizations through advice, guidance, training, networks and forums, and increases the number of volunteer opportunities. We introduced the ACTIVATE project, funded by the Big Lottery, enabling ex-offenders to volunteer by providing support, advice and guidance. The project also works with organizations to make volunteer opportunities accessible to ex-offenders.

The current funding from Wandsworth Borough Council comes to an end in March 2010. This forms a significant percentage of our overall funding, so we need to work to ensure the funding is renewed. It is also important for the Volunteer Centre to work with the Council to align our services with the 'Our Wandsworth 2018' strategy document. The Volunteer Centre will continue to work in partnership with Volunteer Involving Organizations to meet their needs in the next 3 years.

Through grants to organizations in Wandsworth whose work assists necessitous parents of children under 7 years of age. We also fund a training scheme for any of these parents who wish to gain work experience through volunteering and/or a qualification.

Grant funding rounds held during the year awarded funds for projects such as ESOL classes for Somali women, capital costs for a parents support group, Saturday schools for refugee parents and children, and a teacher conductor for disabled children. 4 individuals commenced NVQ training in business administration whilst volunteering for different organizations in the Borough.

Beneficiaries of the grants included Somali women learning ESOL and gaining confidence. Somali children and parents attending a supplementary school reported increased understanding of school work. We funded a therapy programme during the summer term for disabled children.

No major challenges face the Trust this year, although investments of the charity will receive lower interest amounts than in previous years.

We will continue to give grants of up to £5000 to organizations fulfilling our criteria and expand our training to individuals during 2009/10.

The training scheme for individuals commenced in the Autumn of 2008 following a period of research and promotion amongst other voluntary sector organizations in the Borough. A new outreach worker will be in post in May 2009 to promote this training, increase the number of participants and inform organizations of the grants available.

Deadlines for Funding applications for 2009 are the 3rd August and 1st December.





## enabling voluntary action by supporting volunteer programs

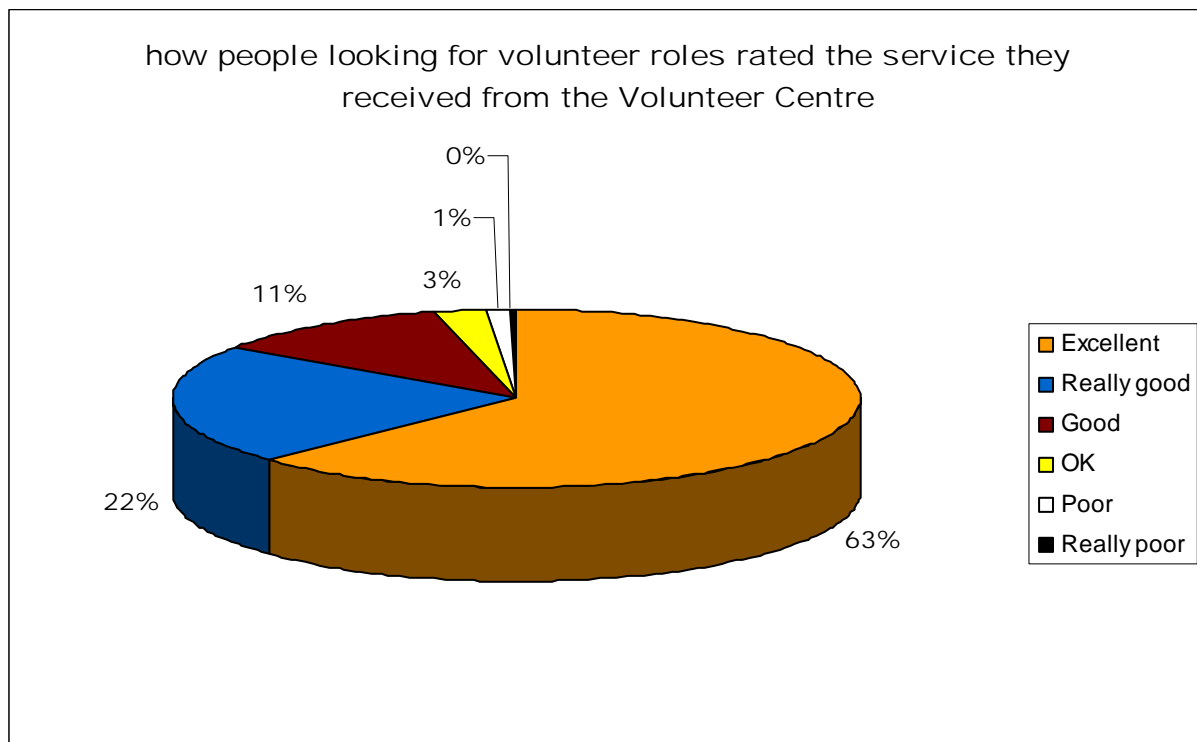
The Volunteer Centre Wandsworth provides a variety of services to both individuals and organizations in the London Borough of Wandsworth.

Our aims are:

- For the Volunteer Centre Wandsworth to be recognised as the leading body for volunteering in the London Borough of Wandsworth.
- To enable any individual that lives, works or studies in the London Borough of Wandsworth to obtain a positive and rewarding volunteer experience that meets their needs.
- To support Volunteer Involving Organizations to provide positive and rewarding experiences for new and existing volunteers, enabling the organization to achieve their overall aim.

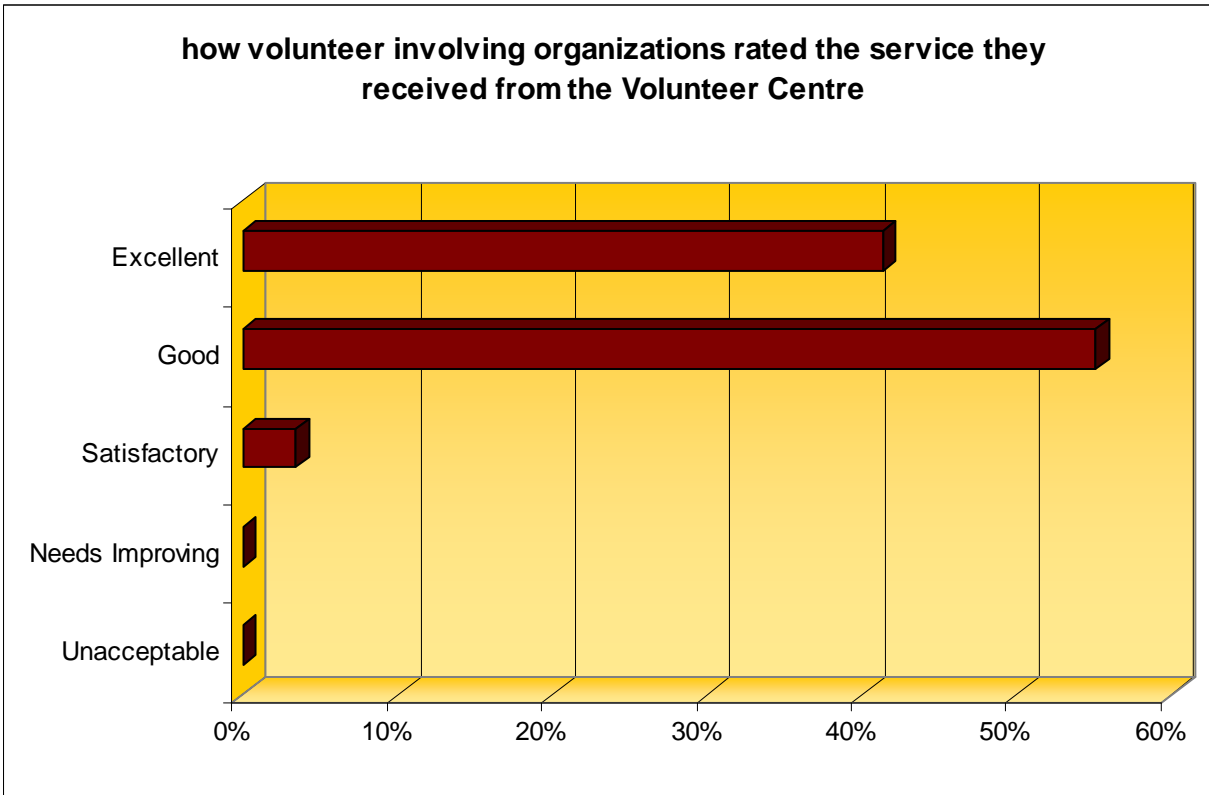
### What people think of Wandsworth Volunteer Centre

Every year we ask people who have used our services to find a volunteer role and Volunteer Involving Organizations (VIO) to give us feedback on the services we provide. This is essential for us to assess and improve the level of service we offer. Over the last year this is what they told us:



Data collected from Wandsworth Volunteer Centre Feedback, April 2008.

*“Thank you so much for advertising our volunteer opportunity at Balham Gateway through Wandsworth Volunteer Centre. We have been inundated with really good volunteers and feel now that we have enough helpers who have proved they are committed to attending the club”.*



Data collected from Wandsworth Volunteer Centre VIO Customer Satisfaction Survey, April 2009.

**//** *With volunteering I can contribute something to society whilst developing my skills and experience.* **//**

**//** *I wanted to put something back into the community. With volunteering you get experience; I want to get back into paid work and volunteering gives you experience in the voluntary sector.* **//**

**//** *Just a message to say many thanks - we had a Volunteer Open Day recently and a number of applicants came through via your service. Some of these applicants are potential volunteers with our service so we are very pleased. Thanks again.* **//**

### Brokerage Project

The aim of the Brokerage Project is to enable people who live, work or study in Wandsworth to volunteer. This is achieved through events such as Volunteer Fairs and Open Days at the Volunteer Centre and attending other community events. People interested in volunteering are able to access information on volunteering, talk to organizations directly and receive advice and guidance from a volunteer advisor. Once someone has found a volunteer role the Brokerage Project can provide ongoing support.

Over the last year we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of people requiring our support and advice with volunteering. As a result 2008 has been our most successful year to date in terms of the number of individuals we referred, brokered or placed. The Brokerage Project exceeded its yearly target to refer, broker or place 1500 volunteers within the first 6 months.

*With such a wide variety of volunteer opportunities available across the borough, we were able to support service users accessing the Brokerage Project to find an opportunity that really suited their needs.*

Emily is a 28 year old student who attended a Volunteer Open Day earlier this year. Emily was motivated to volunteer *“to gain more experience working with children before I begin my primary teaching career and to make a positive contribution to the community.”*

Emily applied for a role with the Refugee Home School Support Project and successfully secured a volunteer placement helping refugee children with their school work: *“I work with a Year 4 (age 8) Kosovan girl for one hour per week, helping her with homework and to meet targets given by her teacher in literacy.”*

When asked about what aspects of her volunteer work she enjoyed Emily told us: *“I enjoy all aspects of this job, but particularly helping with creative writing. It is very satisfying when you are able to develop a child’s skills and understanding in order that they can enjoy and achieve more at school.”*

Emily’s story is great example of the effectiveness of our Brokerage Project. It clearly demonstrates some of the benefits for people who volunteer, their impact on organizations and the people they support.

*Volunteer opportunities which involve providing support to members of the community were amongst the most popular with our service users looking to volunteer.*



Wandsworth Community Transport providing vital support to local people with reduced mobility.

## Volunteer Involving Organizations Project

The Volunteer Involving Organizations (VIO) project has continued to develop the direct services to organizations across Wandsworth that work or would like to work with volunteers. Over the last 12 months, a great deal of support to organizations has been available from the Volunteer Centre Wandsworth including training sessions, advice on policy, one to one advice for volunteer co-ordinators, and developing new volunteer opportunities. Throughout the year this project has worked with over 150 organizations. Below is a short summary of the main activities that have been undertaken.



*Left: Denis Booth runs a coaching session at Roehampton Football Academy, September 2008.*



*Right: Volunteers from Kids' City supervise children's activities.*

### Service Charter

Through the work of the VIO project the Volunteer Centre has introduced a Service Charter for organizations that want to use our services. The Service Charter is our service level agreement demonstrating the commitment from the Volunteer Centre to each organization. The Service Charter details many services including a regular monthly e-mail update, forums, training, and reward and recognition schemes.

### Volunteer Management Forums

These have been an important part of supporting organizational staff, volunteers and trustees over the last 12 months. The Volunteer Management Forums are held bi-monthly and provide an opportunity to promote and share best practice in the management of volunteers through a strong network of practitioners. The Forums provide 'hands on' tools that can be taken away and used to develop volunteer programmes and the organizations as a whole.

### Volunteers' Fair

A volunteers' fair was held at the Battersea Arts Centre in October 2008. It was a great opportunity for organizations to literally put their stall out to recruit volunteers directly, and to network, make contacts and look at working together. Over 45 organizations took part last October, and saw over 100 potential volunteers attend.

### Organization Development Plans

The Organization Development Plans are a self-assessment toolkit allowing organizations to identify where they require help and support from the Volunteer Centre. A set of learning modules including training sessions and events are available to assist organizations to develop in the areas where they have identified a need. This is a fantastic tool which enables both the organizations and Volunteer Centre to maximise resources and help organizations achieve their primary aims and objectives.



### Volunteer Awards

In November 2008, the Volunteer Centre, together with the Economic Development Office at Wandsworth Council, hosted an 'Oscars' evening for Volunteers in Wandsworth, to help organizations show their appreciation to their volunteers. The contribution of over 300 volunteers was recognized and celebrated in the Civic Suite in November. Waitrose Wandsworth sponsored the event and kindly provided the food and drink for the evening, which was served to the guests by a team of Scouts and Guides.

The Volunteer Awards were the culmination of great partnership working over 2008, and not only between voluntary sector organizations. The evening was a fantastic example of the voluntary, public, and private sector working together, recognizing those that contribute to the Borough. Attendees represented every part of the borough, with a great diversity of volunteers present.



*Above left, centre, and top right: Ricochet Street Dance, Elliot School Jazz band, and Valda Wilson and Alison Luz of the National Opera Studio provide entertainment at the 2008 Volunteer Awards. Above right, second from top: Volunteers enjoy amusements at the Awards, held in the Civic Suite, Wandsworth Town Hall. Above right, furthest from top: Asta Rajabu and the Peer Volunteer Team of the Volunteer Centre Wandsworth with their Team of the Year Nomination.*

### 2008 Volunteer Award Winners

- Care Volunteer of the Year – Diana Plant, Thomas Pocklington Resource Centre
- Community Volunteer of the Year – Wayne Jennings, Volunteer Centre Wandsworth
- Environment Volunteer of the Year – Vicki Carroll, Wandsworth Environment Forum
- Sports Volunteer of the Year – Anita Russell, Dover House Lions FC
- New Volunteer of the Year – Vivienne Minto, Volunteer Reading Help
- Young Volunteer of the Year – Amanda Slater, Wandsworth Young Carer's Project, Katherine Low Settlement
- Team of the Year – South London Swimming Club
- Organization of the Year – Family Action
- Lifetime Volunteer - Gunvantrai Shah, Brendoncare
- Judges Special Awards – Pete & Joan, Battersea Arts Centre

### Volunteer of the Year - Kitty Gilbert

Kitty makes an extraordinary contribution to many organizations, and was nominated by 13 different people for this award. She is 25 years old and all of her volunteering is with children at Battersea Children's Library, Earlsfield School nursery, and Honeywell Infant School. In addition she volunteers as a childminder's assistant 3 days a week and helps co-ordinate Tooting Childminders Support Group. She is clearly very popular with the children and parents.



## The Volunteer Support Project

### Enabling voluntary action by supporting residents with extra support needs to volunteer

There are a wide variety of people engaged with the Volunteer Support Project and many of them have multiple and/or complex support needs. WVSDA supports them to participate in volunteering placements in the Borough of Wandsworth. In 2008-2009 their activities ranged from gardening to helping hospital patients.

This year the Volunteer Support project supported 115 volunteers with mental health problems, learning disabilities, physical disabilities, hearing loss and sight impairment, English as a second language or low self esteem.

Referrals to the project came from a wide variety of statutory and voluntary sector organizations and the project has developed good partnerships with local organizations who support and develop opportunities for people with extra support needs. A large number of volunteers are assisting these organizations as administrators and reception staff and are a vital support to our local volunteer involving organizations.

This year the project launched the Peer Volunteer training program. The program is a 10 week course with a mixture of interactive learning and group volunteering activities. The course covers a variety of skills that enable individuals to undertake independent volunteering. The participants volunteer in pairs for 10 sessions volunteering at a local charity shop learning retail skills, at the Volunteer Centre carrying out administrative duties and at The Couper Collective Public Trust assisting with painting, carpentry and marine conservation on sea barges. The pilot project was a great success and the first group all gained a 100 hours certificate in volunteering and were nominated for Team of the Year at Wandsworth Volunteer Awards.

Next year this project will continue to support individuals with extra support needs and develop new opportunities with Volunteer Involving Organizations to ensure that a wide variety of interesting and supportive opportunities are available.

*“This course has been a great way for me to be involved in the community. It has helped going out in a group and I have made some really good friends.” (Peter Robinson, participant of the Peer Volunteer training program)*



## Activate Project

The Activate Project, funded by The Big Lottery Fund, engages ex-offenders and those who have experienced mental health problems, homelessness and drug/alcohol problems. The 3 year project was launched in April 2008 and supports ex-offenders and disadvantaged individuals to find employment using volunteering and training as a stepping stone to long term, sustainable employment.

The project also offers an outreach service and supports organizations to create new volunteer opportunities for ex-offenders. The project offers training on a wide variety of subjects to staff and volunteers, in order to assist organizations to include ex-offenders and feel confident in fully supporting them in their voluntary placements.

Demand for the project has been very high in this first year and referrals have been received from a large number of organizations, including the prison and probation service, homeless organizations and community mental health teams. There has been a lot of interest in the project from organizations which offer services to ex-offenders. 40 outreach sessions have been held this year and have been well attended by enthusiastic staff members and project beneficiaries.

There are currently 90 project beneficiaries with 61 having already contributed over 100 hours each to their voluntary organization. The project, through the JGA Group, is now offering NVQ Level 2 qualifications to all the project beneficiaries. The NVQ Level 2 in Health and Social Care, Advice and Guidance, Business and Administration, Customer Service and Child Care are recognised nationally by employers as a standard entry level to employment. The NVQ qualification is ideal for people with extra support needs as the qualification is gained not through traditional classroom style learning but by collecting 'evidence' of tasks carried out whilst volunteering and creating a portfolio which can include photos, statements and certificates. There are currently 39 volunteers registered for NVQ level 2 qualifications.

Many of the project beneficiaries have multiple and complex support needs in addition to their status as ex-offenders. We are ensuring that there are a variety of supportive voluntary placements available to the volunteers by offering training and one to one support to increase an organization's capacity to involve ex-offenders as volunteers. This year 135 new volunteer opportunities for ex-offenders have been created and 74 staff and volunteers from a variety of organizations have attended capacity building training. The Southside Partnership decided to include staff and volunteers when they attended the 'Volunteering in Prison Training'. Both staff and volunteers benefited from sharing experiences from their various perspectives and it was a great opportunity for the staff to outline and appreciate the supporting role the volunteers offer their organization.



*Wayne Jennings, a volunteer from the Activate Project and Winner of the Community Volunteer of the Year Award.*

One of the most successful project beneficiaries this year is Wayne Jennings. Wayne, a former heroin addict who has a criminal record and experienced homelessness, received the 'Community Volunteer of the Year Award' at the recent Wandsworth Volunteer awards ceremony. Wayne says 'Volunteering has helped me re-build my life and now there are so many options open to me'. Wayne has now been offered part-time employment while gaining qualifications needed to pursue his dream of becoming a chef.

In year 2 the project will be exploring employment options for the beneficiaries, including self - employment support and social enterprise opportunities. The project will also be delivering an innovative 'Job Ready' training course for the beneficiaries and we will be increasing the range of NVQ's offered to include catering and painting, decorating and carpentry courses.

Training and capacity building support to organizations will continue to develop and an extensive training programme will include the new Financial Capability training course and e-learning training modules on Criminal Records checks, Vetting and Barring. A network forum will also be established to share best practice amongst organizations who work with offenders in different ways.

The project has received wide support from a number of organizations such as Thames Reach, Southside Partnership, Spires, South West Magistrates Court Helpdesk, The Couper Collective Public Trust and Clinks to name but a few. We look forward to developing our work with these organizations and increasing our partnership links with other organizations this year.



*"Volunteering helps you to keep a foothold in the mainstream and stops you from sinking further down." (Individual from the Activate Project)*

### **Thank you to the WVSDA Volunteers**

We would like to thank all of the WVSDA Volunteers for their dedication, enthusiasm and hard work throughout 2008.

This hard work, dedication and support has allowed us to support hundreds of individuals and volunteer involving organisations across the borough. The volunteers not only support our services, they also create a warm and happy atmosphere within WVSDA and provide daily inspiration to the staff team.

With the WVSDA Volunteer programme going from strength to strength we will be able to continue and successfully deliver all of our services throughout 2009 that rely upon the support of the WVSDA volunteers. With such success in the last year, there are plans to further develop the 'in house volunteer' team, so that they can provide new services that meet the needs of the community.

At WVSDA we greatly appreciate all of the volunteers and all that they do and would like to take this opportunity to say a very warm and heart felt 'thank you'.

### **WVSDA Volunteers**

Maria Rose  
Roger Lucas  
Annette Brutton  
Linda Whipp  
Francis Stevenson  
Elspeth Troy  
Rhonda Elliot  
Annie Caulfield  
Michelle More  
Millie Krishana  
June Beeson  
Bronnagh Kennedy  
Rita Major  
Bolochimeg Dash  
Claudia Gregori  
Monika Turska  
Andrew Smith  
Esther Fateye

We would also like to say thank you to everyone that has informed, advised, funded, supported and given their time, effort and energy to help us over the last year.

### 2008-2009 Trustees

David Mears, Chair  
Chris Turner, Treasurer  
Munish Chopra, Trustee  
Lucy Gardiner, Trustee  
James Banks, Trustee  
Fitzroy Beckford, Trustee  
Natalie Gibson-Wilson, Trustee  
Susan Taleghany, Trustee  
Terry King, Trustee  
Nigel Hay, Trustee

### The staff team

Stefan Kuchar, Chief Executive  
Nicholas Godden, Volunteer Development Manager  
Tina Champion, Voluntary Sector Development Manager & Financial Controller  
Angela Oldfield, Finance Officer  
Kirstie Sheehy, Project Worker, Activate  
Cristina dos Santos, Voluntary Sector Development Advisor  
Ben Richardson, VIO Project Worker  
Clare Chamberlain, Information and Support Officer  
Ally Hammock, Volunteer Coordinator  
Jo Lofgren, Policy Officer  
Maher Ugaily, ICT Capacity Building Worker  
Max Tucker, Information Officer  
Sebastian Velasquez Sanchez, Office Cleaner  
Carly Binger, Development Officer  
Nicole Bodenhan, Outreach Officer

### Bankers

CAF Bank Limited  
PO Box 289  
Kings Hill  
West Malling  
Kent ME19 4TA

HSBC Bank  
73 Wandsworth High Street  
Wandsworth  
London SW18 2PT

### Auditors

Brookfield & Co  
18 Concannon Rd  
London SW2 5TA

### Funders

During the financial year 2008-09 WVSDA was supported by:

Wandsworth Borough Council

City Bridge

London Councils

Big Lottery

Wates Foundation

City Parochial Foundation

Central London CVS

Wandsworth NHS

Merton and Sutton PCT

Capacity Builders



# statement of financial activities for the year ended 31st March 2008

## INCOMING RESOURCES

	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total 2008	Total 2007
		£	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources from Generated Funds:						
Other income and donations	2	6,177	53,130	-	59,307	11,365
Incoming resources from charitable activities:						
Grants and contracts	3	290,710	188,353	-	479,063	458,653
Bank interest		21,240	5,657	-	26,897	13,634
Other incoming resources:						
Net assets of Putney Crèche						
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>£ 318,127</b>	<b>£ 247,140</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£ 565,267</b>	<b>£ 1,277,234</b>

## RESOURCES EXPENDED

Cost of generating funds:						
Costs of generating voluntary income fundraising	4	9,030	-	-	9,030	7,855
Charitable expenditure:						
Charitable activities	5	239,680	208,808	-	448,488	433,942
Governance	6	7,854	2,140	-	9,994	7,984
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>£ 256,564</b>	<b>£ 210,948</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£ 467,512</b>	<b>£ 449,781</b>
<b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>61,563</b>	<b>36,192</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>97,755</b>	<b>827,453</b>
Transfer in funds		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net Incoming/(outgoing) Resources</b>		<b>61,563</b>	<b>36,192</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>97,755</b>	<b>827,453</b>
Unrealised Gains/(Losses) On Investment assets		-	-	-872	-872	87
Net Movement in funds		61,563	36,192	-	96,883	827,450
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Balances brought forward		346,252	150,209	660,662	1,157,123	329,583
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>£ 407,815</b>	<b>£ 186,401</b>	<b>£ 659,790</b>	<b>£ 1,254,006</b>	<b>£ 1,157,123</b>

Incoming resource and resources expended are derived from continuing activities.

## balance sheet as at 1st April 2008

<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Tangible assets	9	4,518	7,171
Fixed asset investments	10	659,790	660,662
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	11	119,743	136,003
Cash at bank and in hand		606,218	442,340
		<b>£ 725,961</b>	<b>£ 578,343</b>
<b>CREDITORS:</b>			
Amount falling due within one year	12	<b>£ 136,263</b>	<b>£ 89,053</b>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>£ 589,698</b>	<b>£ 489,290</b>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<b>£ 1,254,006</b>	<b>£ 1,157,123</b>
<b>FUNDS</b>			
Endowment Capital Funds	14	659,790	660,662
Restricted Income	14	186,401	150,209
<b>Unrestricted</b>			
Designated funds	14	145,793	157,006
General funds	14	262,022	189,246
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<b>£ 1,254,006</b>	<b>£ 1,157,123</b>

### Summarised accounts

The 2007-8 Directors' Report and Financial Statements were approved by the Board on 30th October 2007. The summarised accounts contained in this report are extracted from the financial statements prepared by WVSDA and given an unqualified audit opinion by Brookfield and Co., the external auditors.

The summarised accounts may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the Agency. For further information the Directors' report, the full financial statements and the auditors report on those financial statements should be consulted.

Copies can be obtained from:  
 The Chief Executive  
 Wandsworth Voluntary Sector Development Agency  
 170 Garratt Lane  
 London SW18 4DA

### Statement of external auditors

The summarised accounts contained within the report are consistent with the full financial statements produced by the Agency for the year ended 31st March 2008 and on which we have given an unqualified opinion on 30th October 2008.

**BROOKFIELD AND CO.**  
**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, REGISTERED AUDITORS**





Many thanks to the organisations below for their help and support:



**LOTTERY FUNDED**



**wandsworth voluntary sector development agency**  
enabling voluntary action

WVSDA, 170 Garratt Lane, London SW18 4DA. Telephone: 020 8870 4319  
[www.wvsda.org.uk](http://www.wvsda.org.uk)

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